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IN THE CLAIMS:

**1 - 2. (Canceled)**

**3. (Previously Presented)** A transmitter comprising:

a demultiplexer responsive to an applied input signal for developing  $L$  signal streams, and

$L$  channel coding/space-time coding transmitters, each responsive to a different signal stream of said plurality of signal streams, and each carrying out channel coding followed by space-time coding, said channel coding/space-time coding transmitters developing rates  $R_i, i=1,2,\dots,L$ , that are not identical to each other.

**4. (Previously Presented)** The transmitter of claim 3 where each of said channel coding/space-time coding transmitters comprises:

a channel coding encoder of rate  $R_i$ ,

a space-time encoder responsive to output signal of said channel coding encoder,

a mapper and pulse shaping circuitry responsive to said space-time encoder, and

at least two antennas for transmitting a space-time coded signal created by said space-time encoder mapped by said mapper, and conditioned by said pulse shaping circuitry.

**5. (Canceled).**

**6. (Previously Presented)** The transmitter of claim 4 where said rates  $R_i, i=1,2,\dots,L$ , are such that  $R_1 > R_2 > \dots > R_L$ .

**7. (Previously Presented)** The transmitter of claim 4 where said channel coding encoder performs trellis encoding.

**8. (Previously Presented)** The transmitter of claim 4 where said channel coding encoder performs convolutional encoding.

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**15. (Previously Presented)** A transmitter comprising:

a demultiplexer responsive to an applied input signal for developing an  $L$  signal streams where  $L$  is at least two,

$L$  channel coding encoders  $i=1,2,\dots,L$ , each responsive to a different one of said plurality of signal streams and developing codes at  $R_i$ , where the rates for different values of index  $i$  are not identical to each other, and

$L$  a space-time coding transmitters, each responsive to a different one of said channel coding encoders.

**16. (Previously Presented)** The transmitter of claim 15 where each of said space-time coding transmitters comprises:

a space-time encoder responsive to input signal of said space-time coding transmitter,

a mapper and pulse shaping circuitry responsive to said space time-encoder, and

at least two antennas for transmitting a space-time coded signal created by said space-time encoder, mapped by said mapper, and conditioned by said pulse shaping circuitry.

**17. (Canceled)**

**18. (Previously Presented)** The transmitter of claim 15 where said demultiplexer develops an  $L$  plurality of signal streams, where said channel coding encoders develop rates  $R_i$   $i=1,2,\dots,L$ , that are such that  $R_1 > R_2 > \dots > R_L$ .

**19. (Previously Presented)** The transmitter of claim 15 where said demultiplexer develops an  $L$  plurality of signal streams, where said channel coding encoders develop rates  $R_i$   $i=1,2,\dots,L$ , that are such that  $R_1 < R_2 < \dots < R_L$ .

**20. (Previously Presented)** The transmitter of claim 15 where said channel coding encoder performs trellis encoding or convolutional encoding.